

THE TRIBUNE'S FOREIGN NEWS

LONDON SOCIETY AT
LADY SLIGO'S BALL

Baroness von Eckhardstein
Has Ball Given in Her
Honor by Mother.

CONNAUGHT PRINCE
BUYS TOWN HOUSE

Manuel of Portugal's Wife Makes
Her First Public Appear-
ance in England.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)
London, Feb. 28.—The ball given by the Marchioness of Sligo at No. 7 Upper Belgrave street for Lady Doreen Browne was one of the most interesting events of the season. There were more than a hundred guests, including Ambassador and Mrs. Page and other well known Americans. Lady Sligo received with her daughters, Ladies Doreen and Eileen. A good many dinner parties were given for the ball. Another prominent social event of this week was a large dinner party, followed by a ball, given by Mrs. Archibald Weir in honor of her daughter, Baroness von Eckhardstein, and Miss Lily Lukach, who was married later in the week. Miss Katherine Page was one of the guests. Others were the Marquis and Marchioness Dufferin and Ava, Priscilla Countess of Annesley, Lord Berwick and Viscount and Viscountess Deerpark.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught were godparents to the son of Captain and Mrs. Rivers Bulkeley, christened this week at the Chapel Royal, St. James's. The child's parents were secretary and lady-in-waiting to the Connaughts.

Prince Arthur of Connaught has bought the Mount street residence from the Earl of Plymouth, but his tenancy of his country house, Hutton Hall, will soon expire, and it is believed that the King will offer the use of Frogmore. It is unlikely that Prince Arthur will go to Canada. It is considered probable that he will be added to the general staff at the War Office.

The King and Queen dined with the Archbishop of Canterbury and Mrs. Randall Davidson, at Lambeth Palace, and with Lord and Lady Crewe, at Crewe House, during the week.

The King held a large levee at St. James's Palace early in the week. Anthony Drexel had a supper party at the Savoy on Thursday. Many prominent people were present, including the Marchioness of Ripon, Mrs. George Keppel, Lady Curzon, the Hon. Lady Keppel, Lady Juliet Duff and the Countess of Drogheda.

Ambassador Page presided at Dr. Green's lecture on Labrador at the Queen's Hall at the beginning of the week. Mrs. Page has discontinued her Thursday receptions at the embassy until May. Sheldon Whitehouse, second secretary of the American Embassy in Paris, is now in London en route for Guatemala.

The Duchess of Marlborough has returned to Sunderland House from Leighton Buzzard.

Manuel of Portugal's new wife, whom the English papers insist on calling "Queen Augusta Victoria of Portugal, King Manuel's consort," made her first public appearance in England at Ealing on Thursday, where she opened a Dickens fête in aid of Sir William Treloar's Hospital for Cripples. Her speech, which was delivered sitting, consisted of the words, "I declare the fête open and wish it the greatest possible success."

She spoke in a low voice, but slowly and clearly, with practically no trace of accent.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldorf Astor have lent their house in St. James's Square for the Mayfair Union sale next week.

The Duchess of Marlborough will address a public meeting on Tuesday at Bedford College on the subject of "A Municipal Party."

Mme. Slavko Grouche sails for America next week, rejoining her husband, the new Serbian Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, in Belgrade later in the year.

W. K. Vanderbilt, Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Robinson, Robert Goetz, Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Perkins, Edmund Randolph, Elmer Chadwick and John Fox are all at the Ritz this week. Miss Rens Parker arrived at the Carlton on Monday.

Henry Harrison, who has just arrived here from Paris, is now at the Berkeley.

Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Valentine are at Claridge's.

TIVOLI MUSIC HALL
TO BE PULLED DOWN

Farewell Celebration Held by
Bohemian London in Fa-
mous Home of Variety.

London, Feb. 28.—It was quite a big Bohemian family party that assembled at the Tivoli a few nights ago to wish goodbye to the old house and good luck to the new—which, by the way, is likely to be completed before the middle of next year. As is the way on such occasions, the dead were the first to have their work honored by remembrance. They remembered Dan Leno before ever he came to the Tivoli—when he was a "champion clog dancer" at the "Mogul"; they remembered Charles Godfrey giving up the alcoholic hilarities of "Hi-Didley-He-He!" for the noble emotions of the patriotic sketch; Herbert Campbell when he was singing first as an old "char" and then as an Eton boy.

Leaving the dead for the living, the tongues wagged of the early work of Tivoli—how great in importance and salary—Albert Chevalier, who was then on the stage at that moment "shaking" into coterie anguishes to sing "Knocked 'em in the Old Kent Road," and who was in the Tivoli programme on the night of 1891 when the house was opened by the late Charles Morton for the new Tivoli Limited; Bransby Williams, who made his first appearance at the Tivoli as deputy to Dan Leno; Harry Lawler and his "Stop Yer Tickling, Jack!" Little Tich and a hundred others.

In response to lusty calls for a speech Albert Chevalier, upon whom and Joseph Wilson the favors of a memorable night fell thick and fast, paid tribute in graceful words to the talents of Tivoli's dead and living.

\$97 FOR WAGNER HAT

Highest Bid Did Not Succeed in
Winning the Relic.

London, Feb. 28.—The last hat worn by Richard Wagner was put up at auction by Puttick & Simpson on Wednesday, but the bidding was absolutely spiritless. The highest price reached was \$97.

No little interest was manifested that the auctioneers withdrew the hat and returned it to its owner.

COUNTRESS OF DROGHEDA.

LADY DROGHEDA
HAS CUBIST ROOM

Wyndham Lewis Designs
New Type of Dining
Room for Countess.

BLACK VELVET
MAIN DECORATION

Angles Marbled in Dull Red—
Light Comes Up from
Table.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)
London, Feb. 28.—Lord and Lady Drogheda have the first cubist room in London. Wyndham Lewis being responsible for the decorations of the dining room at No. 40 Wilton Crescent. The greater part of the wall is of panelings of black velvet framed in slits of mirror. The angles of the room are marbled in dull red. The ceiling and carpet are black, and the curtains are of black velvet, with vertical bands of green and gold. The chairs are upholstered in gold tissue and striped colors. Alabaster urns of reddish tint stand on tripods in the corners of the room. Also the mantelpiece and tables contain concealed electric lights, the only light of the room. A rather remarkable frieze about a foot in depth runs immediately below the cornice. It is difficult to describe exactly what the room looks like, but it has something of the Bulgarian effect now so prominent in women's dress. Wyndham Lewis evidently tried not to be too abstract, accepting whatever suggestions and actual objects would suit his purpose, and in the frieze there are suggestions of birds, fish, fruit, dishes, bowls and, if one mistakes not, knives and forks.

Lady Drogheda has invited a number of friends to see the cubist room on Friday, including Mrs. W. H. Page, Sir Ernest Cassel, the Hon. Mrs. Cecil Bingham, Lady Maidstone and Mrs. George Keppel.

Wyndham Lewis says: "The cubist room is essentially not anything freakish or bizarre. My aim has been simply to achieve perfect fitness. Every room anywhere, it will be noticed, has an individual spirit. This is best expressed by decorating it in perfect accord with the spirit, color, shape and purpose for which it is designed. One room may demand decoration; another may require pictures, panels or friezes, while a third needs merely certain curtains or special treatment of the ceiling. It might be silly in the case of 999 rooms to decorate them with a dado of top hats or panels of cherry wood umbrellas, but the ten-thousandth room might need just this treatment. The main consideration is to get artistic fitness without bothering about realistic convention."

"Suppose you are filling a space with a design in which there is a man in a top hat, and you find that, drawn realistically, the hat is a mass of black, which does not balance with the rest of the design. Then the thing to do is to get it correct, as a mass of black even if it says it wrong as a top hat. Or if the hat brim interferes with the perfect harmony of the design, why, cut it off, thus achieving artistic fitness instead of mere pictorial accuracy."

"I use such a simile as this merely as a crude example to make my point clear. In actual practice the more abstract one keeps a design the more expressive it is. Future art does not lie in subject pictures, for a subject is really in a way usually nothing more than a brutal assault upon the feelings. The idea is to appeal to memory and sentiment and not to the sense of artistic fitness. This does not mean that reality must necessarily be ignored, but instead rather that it must be used as a means and not as an end."

"For example, in the Drogheda dining room I used the suggestion of shapes of birds, fruit, fish, dishes and bowls because all of these help to express the mode and purpose of the room, but the whole thing is harmonious and comprehensible."

The new cubist room has black walls, curtains, ceiling and carpet. This is the Countess of Drogheda's own idea. She is very fond of black and has had a black staircase and carpets in her house since the time of her marriage.

TO REPORT ON N. Y.
POOR LAW REFORM

Sophie Irene Loeb Impressed
with Danish System of
Caring for Widows.

QUEENSTOWN'S CASE
TO GO TO COMMONS

Lord Mayor of Dublin, Exercising
Time Honored Privilege,
Will Present Petition.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)
London, Feb. 28.—In appearing at the bar of the House of Commons to present a petition protesting against the proposed master General's allowing the Cunard Steamship Company to cut out Queenstown, the Lord Mayor of Dublin will exercise a privilege in existence for a century. When a Lord Mayor happens to be a member of the House of Commons he presents petitions from his seat.

The Mayors of the capitals of England and Ireland have the privilege, but the Lord Provosts of Edinburgh have never been able to obtain it.

ASQUITH RAID ONLY BLUFF

'Militants' Prove To Be Chorus
Girls Hired For Movies.

London, Feb. 28.—An enterprising attempt by a band of supposed militant suffragettes to raid Premier Asquith's official residence in Downing street to-day was frustrated by the police, who are always stationed in strong force in the vicinity.

Several automobiles, containing a dozen women wearing the colors of the militant organization, dashed suddenly into the street from Whitehall, and the occupants were about to start "hostilities" when the police surrounded them.

It became known afterward that the operations had been promoted by an American moving picture concern, which had hired a number of chorus girls to represent the militants.

French Praise for U. S. Surgery

(By Cable to The Tribune.)
Paris, Feb. 28.—Dr. Truffier, the noted French physician who visited America recently, gave a lecture the other night at Le Sorbonne, in which he spoke about his visit to the Rockefeller Institute. He said in the course of his lecture that American surgery is superior to the European.

LADY SHACKLETON.

TOTAL ABSTINENCE TO RULE
ON SHACKLETON POLAR TRIP

For Stimulants Party Will Rely on Nothing Stronger than
Tea and Cocoa—Explorers Will Have Many
New Problems to Solve.

London, Feb. 28.—Total abstinence from alcoholic stimulants will be strictly observed during Sir Ernest Shackleton's trip across the south polar continent. He and his men propose to work long hours, including eight hours' marching every day, but for stimulants they will rely on nothing stronger than tea or cocoa. The tea will be taken at midday to refresh the men for the afternoon march, and the cocoa the last thing at night to preserve the bodily heat during the hours of sleep. Sugar will figure largely in the rations. On his last expedition Sir Ernest and his companions took two or three lumps of sugar every two or three hours, and he says ten minutes after eating they could feel the heat going through their bodies.

The men thus far chosen for the expedition are between thirty and forty—one years old. Shackleton, who is thirty-nine, believes that men are at their best between twenty-five and forty. A man, he says, does not reach his full strength until he is twenty-five, and whatever may be the superiority of youth in the way of spring, nerve and enthusiasm, these do not weigh against the staying power of an older man or the balanced judgment of one who has experience behind him.

The working day arranged for the transcontinental party calls for an hour of preparation after waking, then a four-hour march, an hour's rest and another four-hour march. Sleeping time, which in previous trips has been observed between 6 p. m. and 6 a. m., will be cut to eight hours.

Greatest Undertaking of Its Kind.

Sir Ernest is busy arranging the details of the expedition, which is regarded as the biggest undertaking ever attempted in polar exploration, since the distance to traverse from Weddell Sea to Ross Sea is 1,200 miles. At first the explorer proposed to return from the South Pole to Ross Sea by one of three routes, that taken by Scott or by Amundsen or a new one, known as the western route, crossing the great range of the Victoria chain of mountains. It has since been decided that unless conditions prevent the expedition will avoid the two old routes and come out either through the Victoria range or by a route to the eastward of Amundsen's track. If this can be done the expedition will open entirely new ground.

This greatly increases the difficulties and dangers of the journey, for the party

will not have the advantage of a chain of food depots, which proved such a material aid to their predecessors. They will, however, be helped by the resources of science to a degree never dreamed of by former explorers. The expedition will be assisted by a wireless installation, which will keep it in touch with its base for most of the time, and will besides have aeroplane sledges.

Two steamers will support the expedition. A Norwegian steamer, for which negotiations have been opened, will take Sir Ernest and his party to the Weddell Sea, while the Aurora, which has seen much Antarctic service, will go to the Ross Sea to pick them up when they have accomplished their journey.

The first steamer will leave Buenos Ayres some time in October and push to the Antarctic, reaching, if possible, 78 degrees south latitude, where a good landing place was found by the German expedition. If the ice conditions are favorable, winter quarters will be established, depots laid out and the start made the following season.

Five Months Allotted to Trip.

In the mean time the Aurora will have started from New Zealand to land a party in the Ross Sea to meet the transcontinental party. Sir Ernest believes that the trip can be accomplished in five months, but should the obstacles be insurmountable he will have the base in Weddell Sea to fall back on. The first part of the trip, that from Weddell Sea to the pole, is giving the explorer most serious thought. The distance is about 800 miles, and through an entirely unexplored region. The party have no data whatever to go upon, but believe that the dogs, which proved such a blessing to Amundsen, and sledges fitted with aeroplane propellers will overcome all obstacles.

Neither of the steamers will winter in the Antarctic. The Aurora, after landing the supporting party in the Ross Sea, will return to New Zealand, going back later to bring the whole party home. The other steamer will return to South America after landing Sir Ernest Shackleton and his friends, going back in the following year to pick up the Weddell Sea party. For besides these who are to make the long trip, some will be left at the base to carry out scientific investigations. Both ships will burn oil, and will be fitted with tanks, so that any specimens taken may be brought home alive.

KAISER HEARS U. S. TENOR

George Meader Sings in "The
Creation" on Short Notice.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)
Berlin, Feb. 28.—The American tenor George Meader, who has been singing for several years at the Royal Opera, Stuttgart, and who is a favorite at the Wittenberg court, had the unusual distinction this week of being summoned by telegram to Berlin to take the place of Walter Kirchhoff at the command performance of Haydn's oratorio, "The Creation," on Ash Wednesday, at the Royal High School of Music. Professor Siegfried Ochs, under whose direction the performance was given, insisted on giving Meader preference over any other available tenor in Germany. There was an enormous audience, the house being sold out a fortnight in advance. The Kaiser and Kaiserin occupied the imperial box and led the applause. The three soloists, Meader, Johannes and Meschaert Gussow and Frau Bosetti, the prima donna soprano of the Royal Opera, Munich, as well as the director, Herr Ochs, received ovations. Incidentally, it is worthy of note that Haydn is one of the Kaiser's favorite composers.

His majesty is especially fond of "The Creation." Some months ago, speaking of Haydn, the Kaiser expressed himself as follows: "We must look out for their English, who like to claim him for their own, do not entirely take Haydn away from us. His works should be heard more frequently in Germany."

High Post for Shaughnessy?

Whitney, Man, Feb. 28.—There was intense interest here to-day in persistent reports that Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway, was to accept the position of Canadian High Commissioner in London, succeeding the late Lord Strathcona.

For Anglo-Spanish University.

(By Cable to The Tribune.)
Seville, Feb. 28.—It is announced that next April a new Anglo-Spanish university will be established here. The opening will be attended by the King, the Queen, and the British and American ambassadors.

DISCOVERS RIVER
WITH OAKEN BED

Russian Colonel Finds Sub-
merged Timber of Su-
perb Quality.

LYING FOR 500 MILES
AND TEN LOGS DEEP

Water Course Could Yield
20,000 of Them a Year
for Fifty Years.

(From The Tribune correspondent.)

St. Petersburg, Feb. 27.—Colonel Peter Ivanovich Ivanoff, a member of the diving corps of the Russian Imperial Navy, who owns property along the banks of the River Moksha, a tributary of the Oka, which in turn flows into the Volga at Nishni-Novgorod, not long ago discovered one of the greatest deposits of valuable old oak that has ever been found. In the course of some diving experiments in the River Moksha, Colonel Ivanoff noticed that the bed of the stream for long distances was paved with immense logs of oak. Further investigation proved these logs continued for a distance of 50 miles. Some were brought to the surface and sawed into planks, and the timber was found to be of superb quality, very dark in color and fit for the highest quality cabinet work.

Long before Colonel Ivanoff found the great timber deposit he was aware that the peasants living along the Moksha had for generations been using beautiful black oak timber for all sorts of domestic purposes, such as building their dwellings, making furniture and even their toys. The peasants always said "they" got the logs out of the river simply by dragging a loop of chain or rope along the bottom until it caught a log and brought it to the surface. The origin of the remarkable accumulation of logs, which are of a vast size, is easily explained.

River Five Miles Wide.

The River Moksha meanders through a level, open plain, from five to seven miles in width. This plain is composed of sandy alluvial soil, and the river banks are consequently very friable and easily worn away by the heavy floods, especially when the ice is breaking up in the spring. In consequence, the river is constantly changing its bed, as the loose soil of its banks wears away. At some remote period the whole plain was covered with a dense growth of magnificent oaks, and as the river cut away the soil, these fell into the stream, and, becoming water-logged, sank to the bottom and remained there.

The remains of the ancient beds of the river are found everywhere over the plain, some dry, the more recent filled with water in the form of long, narrow lakes, but the bottom of these lakes, like that of the river itself, is also filled with oak logs. It is impossible to estimate the total quantity of timber, but careful calculations go to show that it must run into many millions. In the present bed of the Moksha, without taking into account what lies in the lakes and the old dry water courses, there is sufficient to yield at least 20,000 logs annually for fifty years or more, and the stream is constantly exposing fresh deposits.

Some of the trunks are of enormous size. Oak logs over sixty feet in length to the first branches, and measuring up to four feet in diameter, have been brought to the surface during the last summer. The logs do not lie in a single layer. At points where those on the bottom have been removed, the stream has washed away the sand, disclosing yet other layers below. This circumstance led to further investigation being made, and it has been ascertained that in places the logs lie at least ten feet deep in long stretches of the river.

Wood Water Seasoned.

The water has had a peculiar effect on the timber that has been immersed in it for so long. It is well known that water seasoned wood possesses peculiar qualities and this method is often adopted when specially good timber is required for some special purpose. The practice is to sink the logs to be seasoned in a stream, where the butts to the current. In this way the sap, which is the principal cause of deterioration in badly seasoned timber, is dissolved and washed out, and much sounder and more durable timber is the result.

The oak logs in the Moksha have been subjected to this process naturally, the current acting on the branches insuring that they were all laid with the butts upstream, and they have become perfectly water seasoned. But this additional change has also occurred: The water of the Moksha contains an appreciable amount of iron in solution. In the course of centuries this iron has been carried into the pores of the timber, where it combined with the natural tannic acid of the wood to form a black pigment, which has stained the wood a beautiful dark color. It is not so black as bog oak, where the excess of tannin, derived from the peat in which it is embedded, darkens the wood until it almost resembles jet, and completely obliterates the grain and the medullary rays which constitute the chief beauty of oak.

Valuable Oak Timber.

Russia has almost a monopoly of oak timber of this kind. There is a river in the Caucasus where old oak was discovered a long time ago, and the timber used in flooring and panelling the famous Throne Room of the Kremlin at Moscow. The beauty of the woodwork in that celebrated apartment has been the theme of numerous connoisseurs, but the timber from which it was made in no way surpasses that now found in such vast quantities in the Moksha.

The method used for the recovery of the logs is very simple. Large pontoons, equipped with winches, have been built and launched on the river. From these loops of chain are lowered and swept along the bottom to catch the ends of the logs. The first log raised was brought to the surface in exactly two minutes from the chain being dropped to the bottom.

The work of raising the logs can go on all through the spring and summer. Ice prevents operations from the end of November until about the end of March, but the winter is an ideal time for conveying the logs to the railway station at either Sassovo or Arapovsk, where sleds can be run on the frozen snow. Labor is cheap, plentiful and excellent.